

Appl. No. : **10/772,101**
Filed : **February 4, 2004**

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Informal drawings of Figures 1-60, 66-70, and 73A-75B have been replaced by formal drawings numbering 37 sheets. Informal figures 46 and 47 were previously filed on a single sheet but have been split into separate sheets in this amendment for clarity purposes. Formal drawings for Figures 61-65, 71 and 72A-72C were previously submitted on May 12, 2004, in response to request to file corrected application papers. No new matter has been added.

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REMARKS

The present Amendment is responsive to the Examiner's Non-Final Office Action dated August 9, 2006. Applicants disagree with the propriety of the outstanding prior art rejections, however, in view of the amendments made herein, Applicants have no occasion to comment on the merits of those rejections. However, Applicants may pursue the same or similar claims in this or related patent applications.

Amended Claims

Applicants have amended Claims 1-4, 12-16, 31-33, 36-45 and 79-110 to better clarify the claimed subject matter of this application. No new matter has been added. Support for the claim amendments can be found in at least the following locations in the specification:

Claim amendment	Specification (U.S. Pub. 2004/0210304)
“prosthetic <u>cardiac</u> valve assembly”	Paragraph [0012]: “... the prosthetic valve assembly can be transluminally delivered to a desired location within a body, such as a deficient <u>valve within the heart</u> ”
“ <u>cardiac valvular ring stent</u> ”	Pg. 15, paragraph [0153], referring to <u>Fig. 65</u> , which depicts a schematic of the <u>heart</u> : “A separate stent may then be implanted by venous approach 642 at the valvular ring to further push back the native valve or valve remnants and reduce recoil forces from these structures.”
“prosthetic <u>cardiac</u> valve support portion”	Paragraph [0014]: “The presence of a structure in the form of a wire or in the form of a network of wires in the <u>axial valve support portion</u> makes possible a perfect assembly of this <u>valve with this structure</u> , and the shape as well as the diameter of this axial portion can be adapted for supporting the existing <u>cardiac</u> ring under the best conditions.”

Claim amendment	Specification (U.S. Pub. 2004/0210304)
“native <u>cardiac</u> valve”	Paragraph [0133]: “When placed into the compressed position, valve assembly 310 may be loaded onto a catheter and transluminally delivered to a desired location within a body, such as a blood vessel, or a defective, <u>native heart valve</u> .”
“prosthetic <u>cardiac</u> valve leaflets”	Paragraph [0036]: “The <u>prosthetic valve</u> can advantageously have a frame made of a material with a shape memory, particularly a nickel-titanium alloy known as “Nitinol.” This same valve can have <u>valve leaflets</u> made of biological material (preserved animal or human valves) or synthetic material such as a polymer. When replacing an <u>aortic valve</u> the assembly may be alternatively introduced in a retrograde manner through a peripheral artery (femoral artery) or through a venous approach and transseptally (antegrade).”
“calcified native <u>cardiac</u> valve components”	Paragraph [0126], referring to <u>Figure 36</u> , which depicts a schematic of the <u>heart</u> : “Due to its structure, this part 103b presents a relatively high radial force of expansion and is intended to be placed opposite ring 110 in order to push back the <u>native valve sheets</u> which are naturally <u>calcified</u> , thickened and indurated, or the <u>residues of the valve sheets</u> after valve resection against or into the wall of the passage.”

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe pending Claims 1-4, 12-16, 31-33, 36-45 and 79-110 are in condition for allowance and respectfully

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request an indication of the same. However, if there remain any unresolved issues that could be resolved via a telephone conference, Applicants invite the Examiner to initiate the same with Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: 

Walter S. Wu
Registration No. 50,816
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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